

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NAIMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13088

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG CD LY
SUBJECT: GOE SEES SUDANESE-LIBYAN RIFT DEVELOPING OVER
- CHAD

SUMMARY: GOE PLEASED BY INDICATIONS OF GROWING SUDANESE-LIBYAN DIFFERENCES IN CHAD. EGYPTIANS HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT LIBYAN TROOPS PRESENT AT FAYA LARGEAU AND THAT LIBYANS UNHAPPY WITH UNEXPECTED INCLUSION OF SUDANESE MILITARY OBSERVERS IN ORIGINAL LIBYA-NIGER OBSERVER GROUP FOR CHAD. GOE BELIEVES THAT CHAD WILL AGAIN TAKE CASE TO OAU IF FROLINAT CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO ABIDE BY CEASE-FIRE. EGYPTIANS HAVE NO CURRENT PLANS TO AID MALLOUM, BUT
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ADMIRE FRENCH PERSEVERANCE AND INITIATIVE IN DEFENDING
GOC. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETING WITH EMBOFFS MAY 16, MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AHMED SIDQI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER APPARENT GROWING SUDANESE-LIBYAN DIFFERENCES IN CHAD. ONE FACTOR IN IT IS THAT, FOR FIRST TIME,

LIBYAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY PRESENT AT FAYA LARGEAU, UNDER COMMAND OF MAJOR MAS'UD. SPECIFIC SIZE OF LIBYAN CONTINGENT NOT CLEAR, BUT EGYPTIANS REGARD LIBYAN PRESENCE (IF IT TRUE) AS CLEAR VIOLATION OF SEBHA AGREEMENT WHICH WILL CAUSE SUDANESE REEVALUATION OF ROLE IN CHAD.

2. GOE ALSO LEARNED THAT LIBYANS CURRENTLY MIFFED AT SUDANESE IN GENERAL, AND SUDANESE VP ABU AL-GASSIM IBRAHIM IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE OF SUDANESE EXPLOITATION OF LOOPHOLE IN SEBHA AGREEMENT. LIBYANS HAD EXPECTED MILITARY OBSERVERS IN CHAD WOULD BE DRAWN ONLY FROM LIBYA AND NIGER. AT MALLOUM'S REQUEST, ABU AL-GASSIM EXPLOITED SUDANESE POSITION AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE AND USED EXECUTORY AUTHORITY TO APPOINT SUDANESE OBSERVERS TO COMPLEMENT LIBYAN-DOMINATED OBSERVERS. FROLINAT UNWILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH EITHER ABU AL-GASSIM OR MILITARY OBSERVERS REFLECTS THIS LIBYAN ANNOYANCE.

3. EGYPTIANS UNDERSTAND THAT MALLOUM, IN FACE OF APPARENT FROLINAT REJECTION OF SEBHA AGREEMENT, AGAIN THREATENING TO BRING CHAD QUESTION BEFORE OAU, PROBABLY AT KHARTOUM SUMMIT. MALLOUM HAS GIVEN FROLINAT INFORMAL DEADLINE OF END OF MAY TO ADHERE TO CEASE-FIRE, OTHERWISE CHADIANS WILL ACTIVELY SEEK OAU ACTION. GOE BELIEVES THAT "END OF MAY" DEADLINE WILL PROBABLY SLIP UNTIL JUNE 7 SEBHA ACCORD REVIEW MEETING, BUT MALLOUM APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISITS TO LIBREVILLE AND YAOUNDE MECHANICS OF RAISING CHAD QUESTION IN OAU.

4. EGYPTIANS STILL NOT SANGUINE OVER MALLOUM LONG-TERM CHANCES OF SURVIVAL, BUT GOE VIEWS DEFENSE OF MALLOUM AT PRESENT AS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBILITY OF FRENCH. IF FRENCH UNABLE TO SAVE SITUATION, MODEST AMOUNTS OF POTENTIAL EGYPTIAN AID WOULD MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE. GOE HAS NO PLANS FOR MILITARY AID TO CHAD, BUT IS WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY.

5. COMMENT: SIDQI APPARENTLY RECOMMENDING AGAINST GOE INVOLVEMENT IN CHADIAN IMBROGLIO. HE SPOKE WITH SOME ADMIRATION OF FRENCH ROLE. SIDQI ALSO NOTED WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT SUDANESE HAD APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN DEFERRING DISCUSSION OF PRESENCE OF FRENCH TROOPS UNTIL AFTER JUNE 7 SEBHA FOLLOW-UP MEETING, EVEN THOUGH MALLOUM HAD ORIGINALLY AGREED THAT MILITARY OBSERVERS WOULD ESTABLISH EXTENT OF FRENCH PRESENCE IN CHAD PRIOR TO JUNE 7. EILTS

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